

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

Project Details

1. Project title:

TriMet Bus Replacement

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet)
4012 SE 17th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

3. Contact information

a. **Project's primary contact:** Claire Potter

b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 503-962-5867

c. **Email Address:** potterc@trimet.org

d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

TriMet is a municipal corporation providing public transportation in much of the three counties in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. TriMet operates a comprehensive transit network including a 52-mile, 77 station light rail system, 93 bus lines, 15-mile commuter rail service, and service for seniors and people with disabilities.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

TriMet is a public agency.

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities Program

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)

TriMet requests \$15.4 million in Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities funding to help replace 45 of its oldest buses. The buses identified for replacement are at least 20 years old, lack up-to-date exhaust emissions reduction technology, accessible ramps and air conditioning and are well past the point where they run efficiently or reliably. The replacement buses will be 40-foot, low-floor vehicles outfitted with air-conditioning, accessible ramps and automated stop announcements, providing a more efficient fleet and comfortable experience for TriMet riders. All of the funds will be obligated in FY11.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The purpose of the project is to begin to replace TriMet's aging bus fleet. TriMet has deferred replacing buses due to the agency's financial condition. This has resulted in an average fleet age that is 62 percent higher than the national average.

Many of these buses have been in TriMet's fleet for decades and are years beyond retirement age. In fact, 161 buses—26 percent of the fleet—are 18 years or older and are past the point where they run efficiently or reliably. They lack up-to-date exhaust emissions reduction technology, accessible ramps and air conditioning.

The 45 buses identified for replacement are at least 20 years old, with an average of 810,000 miles each. The industry standard for cost-effective retirement age for a bus is 15 years with 650,000 miles.

Bus maintenance costs peak at 10 years of age. Once buses reach 10 years, TriMet operates them only as peak trippers to avoid high maintenance costs. However, as a higher percentage of the fleet reaches 10 years of age due to deferred bus replacement, TriMet needs to operate older buses in all-day service, resulting in higher maintenance costs.

Replacing the oldest buses in the fleet would result in lower emissions, reduced maintenance costs and provide a more accessible and comfortable experience for TriMet riders. If funded, TriMet would replace the 45 oldest vehicles with buses that have:

- Low floors for accessible boarding for persons using mobility devices
- Dramatically lower exhaust emissions
- Air conditioning
- Automated stop announcements
- Closed-circuit television security cameras
- Fewer maintenance needs

This project will support an estimated 269 jobs in manufacturing (14 jobs per \$1 million in project costs). The manufacture of buses creates jobs in numerous industries--engine and transmission manufacturing, axles/suspension components, aluminum, glass, rubber (tires, flooring, gasket) industries, paint, wiring, textile, seating delivery services, manual publishing, manufacture of A/C, motors, alternators, air system components and controls, fabrication of sub systems and bus tire rims, fasteners, welding equipment/consumables, manufacturing equipment(robots, metal fabrication, paint booths, tools) and electronics.

Bus replacement will improve mobility to employment centers, and result in greater business productivity by providing access to broader labor markets and reducing business operating costs associated with congestion.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years? If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

No.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$15.40 million in Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities funding.

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

\$15.40 million in federal funds for the purchase and delivery of 45 40-foot buses.

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$19.25 million.

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

Yes.

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

\$3.85 million in TriMet General Fund revenues (20 percent local match).

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project. (Please attach any letters of support for the project with this form)

Metro Regional Government, Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT), Multnomah County, Clackamas County, City of Gresham.
